

1. A sealable casket having a memorabilia compartment, said casket comprising:

a shell;

at least one cap pivoted to said shell;

5                   said shell and at least one cap having respective confronting flanges;

a gasket disposed between said flanges of said shell and at least one cap to seal therebetween;

10                   a memorabilia compartment formed within said at least one cap and including an access opening and an interior;

a removable cover positioned over said access opening; and

a gasket disposed between said cover and said at least one cap to seal therebetween.

2. The casket of claim 1 wherein said casket is a full top casket having a single full length cap.

3. The casket of claim 1 wherein said casket is a cut top casket having a pair of caps: a head end cap and a foot end cap.

5                   4. The casket of claim 1 wherein said cover plate is a face plate of a drawer movably mounted in said at least one cap.

5. The casket of claim 3 wherein said cover plate is a face plate of a drawer movably mounted in one of said head end and foot end caps.

10                   6. The casket of claim 3 further comprising a gasket disposed between said head and foot end caps to seal therebetween.

7. The casket of claim 5 wherein said drawer is movably mounted in said foot end cap.

8. The casket of claim 7 wherein said foot end cap includes a header wall and wherein said access opening is formed in said header wall.

15                   9. The casket of claim 8 wherein said drawer is movable into and out of said foot end cap through said access opening in said header wall.

10. The casket of claim 9 wherein said gasket is positioned against an outside surface of said header wall around said access opening.

11. The casket of claim 10 further comprising a drawer support within said foot end cap and mounted from an inside surface of said header wall.

12. The casket of claim 11 wherein said drawer support is an open-ended generally C-shaped channel.

13. The casket of claim 12 wherein said channel is mounted from said inside surface of said header wall with a pair of brackets, one bracket of said pair being located on each lateral side of said channel.

14. The casket of claim 13 wherein each said bracket has a longer leg and a shorter leg, said longer leg being secured to said channel and said shorter leg being secured to said inside surface of said header wall.

15. The casket of claim 14 wherein each said bracket is generally C-shaped so as to be reversible side-to-side of said channel and end-to-end of said bracket.

16. The casket of claim 14 wherein said longer leg has an upwardly directed U-shaped tang at a lower edge thereof a free end of which is received in a slot at a lower edge of said channel, and a downwardly directed U-shaped clip has one leg received in a slot at an upper edge of said channel the other leg of which U-shaped clip retains said longer leg of said bracket against a side of said channel.

17. The casket of claim 12 wherein said drawer is spring biased towards an outward position.

18. The casket of claim 17 wherein each lateral side of said channel includes a semi-circular channel therein, and wherein each semi-circular channel includes a compression spring therein and retained at inward end thereof by a retaining pin, and further wherein said drawer includes a rail on each lateral side thereof which rides in a respective semi-circular channel, such that pushing said drawer completely into said channel causes said rails of said drawer to compress said tension springs.

19. The casket of claim 10 further including a latch mechanism which latches said drawer in an inward position and compresses said gasket between said face plate and header wall.

20. The casket of claim 19 wherein said latch mechanism includes a cam operable on an inside surface of said header wall which when actuated draws said face plate and header wall toward one another.

5 21. The casket of claim 20 wherein said cam is actuatable via a rotatable element mounted in said face plate which when rotated rotates said cam to and between an engaged position whereby said drawer is locked in said cap and a disengaged position whereby said drawer may be withdrawn from said cap.

10 22. The casket of claim 21 further including a rubber washer disposed between said rotatable element and face plate to seal therebetween.

23. The casket of claim 22 wherein said rotatable element is a hex head insert housed within a housing mounted in said face plate.

15 24. The casket of claim 23 wherein said housing has a flange on one end and is threaded on the other end, and wherein said rubber washer is compressed between said flange and face plate by a nut threaded onto said housing threaded end on an inside surface of said face plate.

25. The casket of claim 23 wherein said hex head insert is threaded and said cam is secured onto said insert threaded end by a nut, said cam and cam nut being positioned inward of said housing nut.

26. The casket of claim 12 further including at least one drawer stop operable between said channel and said drawer to prevent said drawer from being completely withdrawn from said channel.

27. The casket of claim 26 wherein said at least one drawer stop comprises a U-shaped first end which fits over a front upper edge of said channel and a wing extending generally perpendicularly from said U-shaped first end, which said wing projects through a slot in an upper portion of said channel whereby said wing is in a path of a rear wall of said drawer as said drawer is being withdrawn to thereby block complete withdrawal of said drawer from said channel.